



1309.43490X00

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Keishi TAMURA et al.

Serial No.: 10/769,805

Filed: February 3, 2004

For: STORAGE SYSTEM AND STORAGE CONTROLLER

Group: 2186

Examiner: Not yet assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 & 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 4, 2005

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and a copy of the document listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

On information and belief, I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Each of the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 is in the English language. An English-language translation of the German Office Action is also attached.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger & Malur, Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. 1309.43490X00) please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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<b>FORM PTO-1449</b> U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 4/92) Patent and Trademark Office	ATTY. DOCKET NO.  <b>1309.43490X00</b>	SERIAL NO.  <b>10/769,805</b>
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>		
(Use several sheets if necessary)		
		
FILING DATE <b>February 3, 2004</b>		GROUP <b>2186</b>

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	ABSTRACT	
						YES	NO
	EP 1 286 272 A2	02-2003	Europe				

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

**EXAMINER** **DATE CONSIDERED**

**EXAMINER:** Initial if citation is considered, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])